Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 GSA-02 STR-05 AID-05 IGA-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 L-03 /076 W ------127955 222012Z /43

R 212140Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 218
INFO AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON EINV BH
SUBJ: STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON USE OF U.S. STEEL'S BAHAMAS
CEMENT FACILITY

REF: A) NASSAU 1123, B) PARAMARIBO 718

- 1. G.E. JENKS, MANAGER, BAHAMA CEMENT COMPANY, FREEPORT, INFORMED EMBOFF DECEMBER 14 THAT NEGOTIATIONS DESCRIBED IN REF A HAVE FALLEN THROUGH. ACCORDING TO JENKS BILLITRON AND ROYAL DUTCH STEEL (THE MAJOR EUROPEAN COMPANIES INVOLED IN NEGOTIATIONS) WERE TOLD BY GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM THAT SURINAM GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW BAUXITE TO BE EXPORTED TO BAHAMAS FOR PROCESSING HERE. SUCH PERMISSION WOULD BE DENIED TO ENCOURAGE LOCATION OF BAUXITE PROCESSING FACILITY IN SURINAM.
- 2. JENKS ALSO INDICATED U.S. STEEL HAS SEVERAL LEGITIMATE AND BONA FIDE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT ALL ARE AT VERY LOW LEVEL STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS.
- 3. ONLY JENKS AND SIX LOCAL EMPLOYEES REMAIN AT PLANT BASICALLY TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR FACILITIES. PRIOR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSURE BAHAMAS CEMENT WAS SECOND MAJOR EMPLOYER IN FREEPORT WIGH 300 ON PAYROLL. JOB DISPLACEMENT OF THESE WORKERS HAVE ONLY INTENSIFIED BAHAMAS ALREADY SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION WHICH SOME ALLEGE MAY NOW RANGE FROM 25-30 PERCENT.

SCHWARTZ

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Message Attributes

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